

Madison Historical Society

Summer 2007

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

The summer is just flying by and seems to get shorter each year. As I write, the blueberries are ripening and I need to get outdoors to pick for our upcoming Blueberry Fest during Old Home Week. I am sure we are all busy with our summer quests coming and going.

This June we had a fundraiser at the Flatbread Company in North Conway. Many of us enjoyed their unique flatbread organic pizzas and plan on making visits in the future. I want to thank all of you who came to support our event and congratulations to Norma Alexander who won our raffle for the \$50 gift certificate to Saco Bound Canoe and Kayak. Norma told me she is looking into possibly purchasing a Kayak in the near future.

On a sad note, we have lost a dear friend of the Society this May. Clifton Lawrence Wells, October 20, 1917 – May 31, 2007. "Clif" volunteered over the years in many capacities. The one we will most remember is Clif's annual July ice cream refreshments, the noteworthy aprons he wore, and that he was our best ice cream scooper at our annual Blueberry Fest. We will miss you Clif.

We are getting closer to making repairs and restoration on the old Town Pound. As mentioned in our last newsletter, we have the lumber, and now we have a miller; Joseph Shackford has offered his services to mill the lumber. Now we just need the skills of some hearty men who can use their talents and

craft to place the milled lumber and fasten them into place. Any takers? We need anyone with carpentry skills willing to do this work, please let us know.

We would also like to know if you (our members) would like to get your newsletters by e-mail. This would save us cost on the increasing price of postage. If you would like to receive your newsletter by e-mail please e-mail Becky with your e-mail address and note that request at:

info@lakeviewcottage.com

Thank you.

And have a happy and safe summer!

Mary K.W. Lucy

WISH LIST

1. Lap Top Computer.
2. Donations toward new exhibit displays.
3. Donations towards expanding our Tool Shed for more exhibit space.

Editor's note: We welcome all stories and memories, long or short to add to the newsletter. Please e-mail to Mary Lucy at: ghostduster@adelphia.net or by mail to: Mary Lucy, 534 Moores Pond Rd., Silver Lake, NH 03875.

Executive Board

Mary K.W. Lucy, President
Linda Drew Newton Smith, Vice President
Robin M. Tagliaferri Ferreira, Secretary
Becky Knowles, Treasurer and Curator

Madison Historical Society 2007 Meeting Programs

Meetings held at the Madison Historical Society Building at 7:00 PM unless noted. Read the "**Conway Daily Sun**" for notices and any changes for each month's program.

July 19 Maryjane Pettengill
"The Girl I Left Behind Me: The Life of Augusta Pettengill During The Civil War."

August 16 Marty Engstrom
"Marty on the Mountain"
Program and book signing.
Madison Elementary School – Noyes Hall

September 20 Michael Hathaway
"History of the Fryeburg Fair"

Other events to note:

August 5 6 – 7 PM Blueberry Fest

August 7 Old Home Week – Tues. 2-4
Museum Open House

BLAST FROM THE PAST

This is taken from an old newspaper article, probably from **The Reporter**, sometime after the Madison Historical Society meeting dated June 15, 1960.

Madison Historical Society
"Jigger" Johnson, the Paul Bunyan of Coos County! Did you ever hear about him? Well, if you had attended our meeting Wednesday, June 15 you would have been enlightened.

How would you like to do as a Boston family did about 1917? They left Boston on the train for Madison, were met and driven by horse and carry-all about six miles to a new home on Colby Hill. What wonderful neighbors they found. The Emerson family, a large family next door, had dinner ready for them, then helped to settle them in their new home.

To hear Mrs. Clifford Ward tell about that experience was well worth listening to. She told about the different members of that family in a most intimate way, they seemed to come to life again. How one would like to have met the Emerson family. But if one looks around them they will still find many such families in this area.

During the business meeting there was discussion about replacing an old wooden cemetery marker with a similar wooden one at the Jackson Cemetery.

During Old Home Week the society will have a special meeting open to all interested in our town.

A large picture of the members of the N.H. Legislature of 1911 was presented to the society by Leon Gerry. Last month we were loaned a very fine red plush parlor set to use indefinitely by Grafton, Roland and Margaret Ward.

It was voted to have Liability Insurance placed on our society building.

The business meeting was adjourned at 8:10 by the president, Herbert Weston.

And what refreshments! Fresh coffee breads, cookies and coffee served by Mrs. Bette Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Meader, Mrs. Marjorie Harding in charge. And it was good!

Next meeting July 20 at 7:30. Everyone welcome.

POETRY CORNER

We are happy to present three more poems that are from the book of poems that Penny Hathaway copied and gave to me to share in our newsletter. The book is entitled, Whitton's Well, forty-three poems by Albert L. Watson, Copyright 1976 by A. L. Watson, printed by asc Creative Printing, inc., Hagerstown, Maryland. On the inside cover page it is inscribed, *For Leon Gerry of Madison Corner if he will put up with it.*

NOTE: As written by Albert L. Watson. Date unknown.

#7 ISLANDS IN SIX-MILE POND

Big Island is not wide enough for camps
or long enough for blueberries –
only Bimba Island can be smaller.

In winter smaller both the islands,
hummocks grey with slender trunks
where elbows lifted under level snow
attest
something beneath was never
springs.

Forlorn on drifted plains
with only black cape pointing there
Big Island reaffirms its lastingness:
its bigness is a length of time:
that all we built on shore is built on
water
and what was built on water firm on
ledge.

I walk on shoes when boats are up
and swimmers put away another
year.
I have come, gone, and returned
and now there is no isolation but the
wind.

Where is the permanence in our idea
except the permanence of things,
their quality of being there
whether we are or not?

#25 KEEPING UP THE OLD WALLS

The first of summer I go to lift the
stones
back to our walls where they've
tumbled off.
Now and then I'm apt to grin back a
little shortly
when people passing or just looking
along the trail
for apples from the orchard now
grown wild grin at me
and without ever a word say plainly:
What's the point
building back those walls? There's
no one here
but summer people. Why strain your
back?

It isn't pure self-interest sets me
fixing walls

when there appears no sense to it:
pasture, orchard, pine
without regard to status merge in
upstart foliage
of yellow poplar. All that remains of
former culture
is the upper meadow I keep clear for
view.

Yet it's in me to reserve a monument
to old distinctions,
not something high but something
long that draws
straight limits from the corners of the
ground
retaining definition though we may
not appreciate
exactly why the earth is thus defined.

There's sentiment involved too: the
admonition
not to betray those men of now
unimaginable
industry who without law to make
anybody pay them
but only to be sure to live at all
surveyed the sidehill that was theirs
and stone by stone cleared a place to
start in
witnessed by the stony countenance
of the mountain.
Having assigned what they wouldn't
use to form boundaries
They were free to cultivate the rest
for sustenance.
I don't like to see it all go back after
what they did.

The stones set over them in plots by
their sons
and grandsons were erased years
ago by wind and water.
But I keep these stones of
demarcation up showing
this was not always a land of
precocious soft-grained poplar
but a country of seasoned men who
lived and toiled
leaving solid evidence to say they did
it.
Without understanding beauty just as
we do
they left tokens of experience to feed
the force we have to have always
facing front.
Something beside the mountain
recalls how they were built.

Continued on the next page ...

#35 JESSE SHACKFORD

*Jesse Shackford dug our well and pulled
our stumps
and when he'd stumped the road and
graded it for bumps
(he and his boys worked morning night to
evening night when nights were short and
days were long)
I knew that it was good to do things
slowly right
not quickly right and partly wrong.
Jesse knew I should have known that all
along.*

OLD PICTURES FROM OUR FILES



World War I veterans in front of Madison Historical Society Museum. Year unknown. From left to right: Enoch L. Drew, Guy Nickerson (holding flag), George W. Frost, Isaiah L. Forrest, Mark Nickerson, L. Raymond Ambrose, George E. Frost, William A. Harmon, A. Martin Nickerson, Burton S. Sawyer, Jesse Harmon, and Robert Drew.

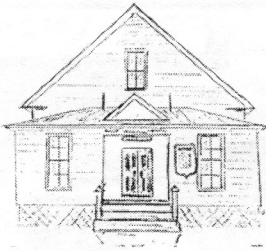


Summer folk probably just off the train in Madison. Below: Silver Lake Bathing Beach. Year unknown.



Arthur Tyler's store at Madison Corner. Year unknown.

If anyone can date these pictures, let me know!



Madison Historical Society Museum - 1884

Madison Historical Society
P.O. Box 505
Madison, NH 03849

GIFTS

Donations by check or cash - the most direct and immediate way to offer support. Your gift will be deeply appreciated, whether in response to our mailed appeal or at a time convenient to you. As a non-profit organization, all gifts we receive are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

Memorial gifts- one of the most meaningful ways to acknowledge the passing of a loved one is by offering a gift as a tribute to a life lived. Memorial gifts become part of our Memorial Fund, which supports the work of the Madison Historical Society. Many times, families include a request for memorial gifts as part of the newspaper obituary. Often, individuals choose to make gifts in memory of their loved ones on birthdays or to mark the anniversary of their passing. A listing of the donors' names and addresses (but not the gift amount) is provided to the deceased's next of kin. Families tell us memorial gift tributes help to bring comfort and solace during their time of bereavement.

***You too can be a member of the
Madison Historical Society.***

Send
\$5.00 individual or
\$10.00 for family yearly membership
*along with your name, address, phone
number, and e-mail address to:*

Madison Historical Society
Attention: Treasurer
P.O. Box 505
Madison, NH 03849

The Madison Historical Society Newsletters can also be found on our web page:
<http://ci.madison.nh.us/historical/index.html>